

January 7, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President, I would like to ask a question of Senator Syas. Senator Syas do you have any idea of how many acres of woodland or water would be involved in this?

SENATOR SYAS: Oh, I wouldn't have the slightest idea. This will not cost much, I know that but whatever does cost it is certainly worth it. I wouldn't have the slightest idea of how much waste forest land or how many farm ponds there are in the state of Nebraska that are not used for profit. No one would know that right now. You would have to go down into the counties and find out. I think that that is not revalent then for the moment because the simple reason is that if this bill passes the people, the legislature will have sufficient time when they set up the enabling legislation to research that thing. In fact since I am the chairman of recreation that would probably be one of my committee duties to have this. If it gets on the ballot, I'll put it this way. I'm going to have that ready, prepared as to how much of this or that there is by the legislative council for the next session of the legislature. Right at the moment I think that that is an impossible question to answer of anybody in the state.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I'm sure that it is in detail but I can't think of any area in my district that would fall into that category.

SENATOR SYAS: If you probably could be right in your district, but I think it is all farm land and probably farmed right up to the fence row on the type of land that you have, but there are areas in other places in Nebraska that that is not so. I know of several pieces of land for instance in south east Nebraska that this will be a great help too. I think that it would be a great help to Western Nebraska and it depends upon the area that you are in whether it is a help or not. It will never be a hinderance, but it will always be a help. Now look, I'm not looking in your area. I'm not looking at it from my area because this doesn't do a thing for my area, because.....I don't think that it does, there might be some isolated tract out in the country that I have someplace that I don't know about but I'm not doing it for me, and I'm doing it for the people of the state of Nebraska.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Sounds like a good plan, but I'm just interested in knowing how much was involved.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion on the desk. Read amendment. Chair recognizes Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. Chairman this changes nothing in the bill except in the concise definition of going to the people it just simply tells them that it does not apply to urban areas. I think that if you are going to ask a third of the people in the state to vote on this they ought to know specifically in the concise definition that it has no reference to the exclusion or otherwise would appear that it would pertain to the whole state. I think that is an ommission that should be corrected.

(end belt #8)